THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, the 22nd July 1952.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, Madras, at half past ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Fixing the prices of yarn.

* 163 *Q.*—SRI A. J. ARUNACHALAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether the Central Government or the Bombay Textile Commissioner or the Price Fixation Board are consulting the State Government before fixing the prices of yarn of various counts?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" No, Sir."

SRI A. J. ARUNACHALAM :—" May I know, Sir, whether anybody is representing the Madras Government in the Central Cotton Board? If not, will the Government consider the desirability of appointing some representative to plead our case? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The price of yarn is fixed by the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, in consultation with the Central Cotton Committee, according to the formula fixed by the Tariff Board. Before the prices are fixed, an informal consultation takes place and our Director of Controlled Commodities who goes there represents our views and suggestions."

SRI V. V. RAMASWAMY :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Director of Controlled Commodities goes there every time and, if so, whether the Government gives him specific instructions regarding the attitude he has to adopt in the conference? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, there are quarterly and half-yearly conferences. Of course, the Director of Controlled Commodities goes to the conference every time. But actually when the price is fixed, it is done by the Centre and we are not consulted."

SRI P. THIMMA REDDI :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that the price of yarn in the black-market is much cheaper than the prices in the ordinary market?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I take the information from the hon. Member, Sir."

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" Is it the contention of this Government that the formula fixed by the Tariff Board is wrong, or the application of the formula is wrong or the manner in which the formula is enforced is wrong? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The Tariff Board have evolved a formula. We cannot say it is wrong. The price of cotton is fixed every month. Prices are subject to fluctuation every time. Therefore, discrepancies and hardships are bound to occur."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" In view of the fact that we are an important cotton-producing area, have this Government ever protested to the Central Government for their not being consulted in the fixation of prices? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" A number of times, Sir."

SRI D. SEETHARAMIAH :—" Will the Government recommend to the Government of India that the price of yarn should be fixed in conformity with the prices of cotton? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" We have done so many times, Sir."

SRI R. KRISHNAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have received representations from the mill-owners or handloom weavers that the price of yarn should be lowered? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" From the handloom weavers we have received a deputation that the price of yarn should be lowered. No representation has been received from the mill-owners."

SRI K. SUBBA REDDI :—" May I know whether any representation has been received from the working class also? Will the Government consider the desirability of taking into account the purchasing power of the people when fixing the price of yarn? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I want to inform the hon. Member that it is not we but the Central Government who fix the prices of yarn."

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN :—" May I know what are the considerations which weigh with the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, as well as the Central Cotton Committee, in fixing the prices of cotton of various counts? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I should like to have notice, Sir."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" In view of the fact that the price of yarn alone is the major item going into the cost of production of handloom cloth and in view of the fact that there has been of late a tremendous fall in the price of local cotton, will the Government consider the desirability of immediately constituting a committee consisting of the representatives of the workers and the manufacturers to go into the question of the entire price structure of yarn so that effective representation could be made to the Centre on the basis of unassailable and proved facts? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The hon. Member is not right in saying that the price of yarn has been going down. As a matter of fact, I am told that for the last two

days, prices have actually gone up. The question of fixing the prices is entirely in the hands of the Central Government. I think the State Government have sufficiently fortified themselves to press for a revision of the price structure.''

Sri T. Nagi Reddi :—'' In view of the fact that our area is an important cotton area and there are a large number of handloom weavers, will this Government advise the Central Government to include a representative of ours in the Price Fixation Board so that we may have a voice in such a vital matter as fixation of prices of cotton and yarn? ''

The Hon. Dr. U. Krishna Rao :—'' The matter will be considered, Sir.''

Sri A. J. Arunachalam :—'' Are the Government aware that ex-mill rate for Pioneer's superior 60s and Alagappa's inferior 60s is the same and that for the same variety, people have to pay Rs. 56 for Pioneer's 60s 10 lb. and only Rs. 49 for Alagappa's, in the open market? Will the Government, therefore, be pleased to recommend to the Centre to fix separate rates for superior and inferior varieties of yarn? '' 10-40 a.m.

The Hon. Dr. U. Krishna Rao :—'' I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that a separate question may be put.''

Sri S. C. C. Anthony Pillai :—'' The Hon. Minister has not given a clear answer to my question; it is a very simple question. Do the Government of Madras approve of the formula of the fixation of prices and if they approve, what is the basis to claim that there should be a reduction of prices? I suppose the House is entitled to have an answer to that question.''

The Hon. Dr. U. Krishna Rao :—'' I have told the hon. Member that the Government of Madras have nothing to do in regard to the fixation of prices; it is the Central Government that do it and in arriving at that, they have got a formula but the State Government have nothing to do with it.''

Rallapadu Irrigation Division.

* 164 *Q.*—Sri C. V. K. Rao (on behalf of Sri K. Krishna Rao) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Irrigation Division of the Executive Engineer, Rallapadu Division in Nellore district, is to be wound up and, if so, why? ''

The Hon. Sri N. Ranga Reddi :—'' The answer is in the negative.''

Sri D. Seetharamiah :—'' May I know if the Government are going to re-arrange the existing engineering divisions and, if so, would they consider the desirability of each backward district being given one Executive Engineer for Irrigation? ''

The Hon. Sri N. Ranga Reddi :—'' I suggest to the hon. Member to put a separate question.''